

Boxborough Conservation Commission Meeting

Minutes

Wednesday January 2, 2013

Town Hall

Members present: Charlene Golden, Norm Hanover, David Koonce, Dennis Reip (Chairman), Hoff Stuart, Rick Williamson, and David Follett at 7:45 PM.

Also present: Vince Amoroso, Selectman; Randy White, Fire Chief; Owen Neville and John Neyland, Agricultural Commission; and Anne Canfield, Airport Study Committee.

Dennis called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

Motion was made by Rick, seconded by Norm, and unanimously voted 6 – 0 to approve the minutes of Dec. 19, 2012.

Norm reported that he inspected the installation of erosion controls for the septic tank installation at 182 Swanson Road. The erosion control has been well installed. Norm also raised a concern over the potential incursion of groundwater during excavation.

Charlene reported that the town accountant reports are correct.

Motion was made by Dennis, seconded by David Koonce and voted unanimously 6 – 0 to request the appropriation of \$5,000.00 to be submitted as a warrant article for the annual town meeting 2013.

Dennis reviewed his presentation in support of article 6 at the January special town meeting. The warrant article is for the release of an easement on the Fabian property.

David Follett arrived at 7:45 PM.

Bob Stanley, tenant farmer at Minute Man Air Field, came before the Commission to express his concern over the Amended Order of Conditions recently issued by the Commission for vegetation management at MMAF. Specifically he is concerned that he will lose access to productive, active agricultural land if the Amended OoC is implemented. David Follett reviewed the situation and the history of the location. It is the applicant / property owner's decision to record the AOoC by Jan. 31, 2013 or to revert to existing, recorded OoC. Mr. Stanley stated that he is preparing a farm plan with the assistance of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Farm Service Agency. The Commission recommended he file and RDA upon completion of his plan.

Fire Chief Randy White came before the Commission to express his concerns over the existing tree cutting slash at MMAF. He is concerned the slash, which exceeds the 2 foot state maximum height requirement, is a fire hazard on the Tamarack Road side. Chief White stated that a fire started in these conditions with a 5mph wind would spread at a rate of 396 ft. per hour. With a 20mph wind it would be 1991 ft. per hour with spot fires starting up to ¼ mile away. He is currently studying options for addressing the concerns, which include the impact on rescue operations in case of a plane crash. Dennis read an email from Don McPherson, property owner, stating his position on removal of the slash. As the discussion concluded Chief White stated he would explore his enforcement options under state fire laws. David Follett will consult with state Fire Marshall Bob Johnson to explore additional options for addressing the concerns. Chief

White will update the Commission by email or in person at the next regularly scheduled Commission meeting on Jan. 16.

Norm reported that additional information and recorded documents for 80 – 90 Central Street were researched on the web. Norm has drafted a letter to property owner Piedmont Corp. regarding the Conservation Restriction and maintenance of the trails that are part of Fort Pond Brook trail system. Hopefully, all concerned parties will meet at town hall to review the topic and responsibilities.

Motion was made by Dennis, seconded by David Follett, and unanimously voted to adjourn at 10:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted, David Koence.

David M. Koence 02/06/13
Approved Date